DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, can you club Ques-tjon No_ 285 and Question No. 287? ... *(Interruptions)* ... They are on the same topic.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Both these questions are on Melghat.

. . . (Interruptions) ...

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Both these questions relate *to* the same *Ministry... (Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think we will come to that question _____ *(Inter-ruptions)...* But, the hon. Member m whose name Question No. 285 stands, is absent.... *(Interruptions)* . .. The ques tioner of 285 is absent *(Interruptions).* .. Shrjmati Basanti Sharma and Shri V. Rajeshwar Rao are not there... *(Interrup tions)..."We* will come to that. Let Us finish Question No 286 first _____ *(Inter ruptions) ...*

*285. *The questioners Shiimati Basanti Sharma and Shri V. Rajeshwar Rao) were absent. For answer vide col. infra.*

Collection under VDIS

*286. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPUM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) of Government has not picked up as it was estimated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the amount So far collected in this scheme?

Statement

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P, CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House, (a) to (c) It is premature to make any assessment about the success of the scheme. The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme-1997, came into operation from 1.7.97 and will last till 31.12.97, This scheme has been launched to harness black money for productive purposes. The responsie to the scheme will depend, to a large extent, upon the confidence of the declarants on maintain-ence of confidentiality of the disclosures. Keeping this in view, the scheme provides that declarations shall be filled on'y to Commissioners of Income Tax. For the same reason details are not bcinf obtained centrally from the Commis-sioners regarding the number of de clarants or the amounts disclosed, etc.

It has been ded,ed to, take stock _ oniy towards the end of the period of operation of the scheme.

श्री सजंय निरूपम: मैडम,मैंने वालेंटरी डिस्कलोजर इन्कम स्कीम के बारे में सवाल इसलिए रखा है क्योंकि 28 फरवरी,1997 को जब माननीय वित्त मंत्री,श्री चिदम्बरम साहब ने अपना बजट पेश किया था और यह स्कीम अनाउन्स की थी,तभी इसकी बहुत आलोचना हुई थी इसको बहुत क्रिटिसाइज किया गया था,और ऐसा कहा गया था कि यह स्कीम सक्सैसफुल नहीं हो पाएगी । ऐसा एक-दो अखबारों में छपकर आया है कि यह स्कीम सक्सैसफुल नहीं हो रहीं है । बहुत अच्छे ढंग से जो ब्लैक मनी को रिकवर करने वाली बात है,तो यह उन लोगों को एट्रेक्ट नहीं कर पा रही है । तो मेरा सवाल था कि यह स्कीम फ्लाप हो गई है या सक्सैसफुल है ? चिदम्बरम साहब ने जवाब यह दिया है कि,

"It is prematur to make any assessr' ment of the suce!ss of this scheme.

मैडम,इस स्कीम को लांच हुए 42 दिन हो गए हैं । 42 दिनों में क्या चिदम्बरम साहब ने इस स्कीम को रिव्यू करने के लिए कोई भी मीटिंग बुलाई है फोटनाइटली या मथली ? अगर वे नाम डिस्कलोज नहीं कर सकते तो इतना तो बता सकते हैं कि इन 42 दिनों में आल ओवर इंडिया में,सारे हिन्दुस्तान में कितने आवेदन आए हैं डिफरेंट कमीशन्स के पास ?

† The question was actually asked on

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, as I have said in my answer, this scheme is based upon preserving confidentialities. I have not taken any credit for any amount under the scheme in the Budget, Anythln,g thar we get under the scheme is over and above the estimate in the Budget. And therefore, no targets have beem fixed This teheme is intended to create country a culture of compliance with taxes. This scheme has several parts. One is the straight disclosore of unaccotmted income and wealth. The other is section 139(1) where we are motivating a large number of people, particularly people who satisfy two out of four criteria, to become assessees by filing their returns. The third is the on-going scheme of motivating a large number of people to declare their current income. As a deliberate policy, we are not-Centrally collecting this information. This information is available only with the Oommissioners of Income Tax. They have been told to preserve this with utmost confidentiality. As I said in the other House, I will report back to this House at the end of the scheme about the results of the scheme.

श्री सजंय निरूपम: मैडम,मेरे सवाल का जवाब तो आया ही नहीं है।...(**व्यवधान**)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, we are not asking about confi-dentiality. We are only asking whether the scheme is working or not. We are only asking as to how many applications have been received so far. We want only the number of the people who applied.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Yes. I am also asking the same question,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your question is supplemented by Mr. Hanu-manthapipa... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The scheme is working and I believe, it is working satififactcerily. At the end of the year we can decide whether it is a success or otherwise,

श्री संजय निरूपम: मैडम,मेरा सवाल यह है कि आप यह तो बता सकते हैं कि

कितनी एप्लीकेशन्स इन 42 दिनों में,आई । मैं शहर का नाम नहीं पूछ रहा हूं मैं व्यक्ति का नाम नहीं पूछ रहा हूं मैं व्यक्ति का नाम नहीं पूछ रहा हूं लेकिन जिस स्कीम को लेकर के इतनी आलोचना हुई है,इतना क्रिटिसिज्म हुआ हैतो कम से कम वित्त मंत्री जी उसका रेगुलर रिव्यु तो करें कि उसमें लोग आ रहे हैं या नहीं,लोग उस स्कीम में इन्टेरस्टिड हैं कि नहीं है । मैं उनके नाम देने के लिए या पैरा जाहिर करने के लिए नहीं कह रहा हूं । मैडम,जो मेरा पहला सप्लीमेटरी क्वेश्चन था उसका अभी तक जवाब नहीं आया है । मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी पहले उसका जवाब दे दें ।

That is with regard to the number ot applicants and how many times he has reviewed the scheme.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said, Madam, as a deliberate policy, I am not collecting Centrally the infiormation recei ved by the Commissioners of Income Tax In fact, I do nbt agree with the hon. Member that the scheme has widely been criticised. I can recall that Mr. Suresh Prabhu, an hon. Member of the Shiv Sena, has welcomed the scheme.

श्री संजय निरूपम : मैडम,मेरा सेकेण्ड स्प्लीमेंटरी क्वेश्चन यह है..... (**व्यवधान**).....सुरेश प्रभु जी हमारे माननीय सहयोगी सदस्य हैं.... ...(**व्यवधान**)

प्रो,विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम,इस स्कीम में नाम लेना मना है । किसने इसको प्रेफर किया है और किसने प्रेफर नहीं किया है? यह स्कीम तो काफी-डेंशियल है और आपको इसको काफी-डेंशियल रखना चाहिए । .. ...(**व्यवधान**)....

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We will keep that also confidential. I accept Mr. Malhotra's advice to keep confidential those who have welcomed the scheme privately and criticised it publicly

श्री सजय निरूपम: मैडम,ठीक है। में पब्लिकली इस स्कीम को क्रिटिसाइज

कर रहा हूं और मेरे नाम को कांफी-डेंशियली रखने की जरूरत नहीं है । जहां तक सुरेश प्रभु जी की बात हैं तो वह हमारे माननीय सहयोगी सदस्य है लेकिन एक उनकी राय उनके पक्ष में होने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि पूरे देश ने इस स्कीम को एक्सेप्ट कर लिया है । सच यह है कि इस स्कीम को अनैतिक बोला जा रहा है । ऐसा कहा जा रहा है कि जिन लोगों ने ब्लैक मनी जमा कर रखी है,जिन लोगों को ब्लैक मनी जमा करके रखने की आदत है,उन की आदतों को आप बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं,इस तरह की स्कीमों को ला करके । जब बजट पर एक बार डिसक्शन हो रहा था तो मैंने कहा था कि इस स्कीम को इन्कम टैक्स के जरिए रखने के बजाय अगर बैंकों के थ्रू रखा जाए तो इसमें और सीक्रेसी मेंटेन हो सकती हैं । मंत्री महोदया ने अभी तक इस स्कीम को रिव्यु नहीं किया हैं तो मैं मंत्री जी ने अनुरोध करूंगा कि क्या इस स्कीम को फिर से रिव्यु करके पूरी स्कीम को बैंकों के थ्रू आपरेट करने का कोई डिसीजन लिया जा सकता है ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madan,I have respect for the hon. Member's view. It is quite possible that a section could continue to view the scheme criitcally All 1 can point out is, the scheme was intro-iduced in the Finance Bill, 1997. The Finance Bill has' been passedby the Lok Sabha, has been returned by the Rajya Sabha. I would therefore, like to proceed on the basif that there is-a broad parliamentary approval for the' scheme. The; scheme is being operated through thei Commissioners of Income Tax While de-•signing the scheme it is after many, many hours of deliberation-it was decided that the Commissioner of Income Tax is the best person to maintain confidentiality of the scheme. Earlier, similar scheme have also rested on the principle of confl-dentiality. There' has been no' Case, no complaint, to the best of my knowledge, of any instance of of each of ctomfidentiality I am "anxious to ensur that there"is no breach of confidentiality this time' also, and that is why I respectfully submit to the hon Member who put the question, let us wait until 31st December, and all he information will

श्री राघवजी: उपसभापति महोदया,सच बात तो यह है कि पूरा आयकर विभाग और पूरा आपका मंत्रालय इस बात के लिए लगा है कि स्कीम में अधिक से अधिक घोषणा करने वाले आएं । सारे आयुक्त इस बात के लिए जिले-जिले जा रहे हैं और प्रचार भी कर रहे हैं,इसके बावजूद जो परिणाम मिलना चाहिए वह नहीं मिल रहा है । शायद मंत्री जी उसको छिपाना चाहते हैं । असल बात यह है कि लोगों का विश्वास ही नहीं जम रहा है जिनको घोषणा करनी है कि पता नहीं सरकार उन लोगों के साथ कैसा व्यवहार करेगी । कई लोगों के मामले पेंडिंग भी है । तो पैडिंग मामलों में तो असर नहीं होगा इस बात का भी उनको भरोसा नहीं जज रहा है और ऐसी विश्वसनीयता नहीं होने की वजह से जो इस का परिणाम मिलना चाहिए । वह नहीं मिल रहा है । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछली जो दो स्कीमें थी उसमें इस प्रकार का कितना धन घोषित हुआ था और अगर नाम ना बताएं तो केवल रकम बतला दें कि इतने रकम के डिक्लेरेशन आए हैं ? तो अब तक कितनी राशि के डिक्लेरेशन आए हैं ?

उपसभापति: यह भी तो हो सकता हैं कि लोगों के पास ब्लैंक मनी नहीं हो ।

श्री संजय निरूपम: मैडम,ऐसा संभव नहीं है इस देश में ।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I am glad that the hon. Member, Mi. Raghavji, wants a more .encouraging response' to the scheme. It means had he been asked to- fix some internal tar get, he would have fixed the target higher than' even what I would have fixed. I am grateful to him for that. The point is, as you rightly said, this scheme's suc cess Or otherwise depends upon confiden tiality.your last quetion is disturbing. You said, "Even if the Minister does not reveal 'the names, let him reveal the numbers". "Even if he does not reveal the names" is a very disturbing statement. We will never reveal the nanes *(Interruptilpns)*

SHRI RAGHAVJI I never meant so .. (Interruptions)....

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, no, I am just saying. Therefore, the question os. We must build confidence. Madam, I respectfully submit that the scheme is working satisfactorily. I am not Jiaving a broad ,grin on my face because I do not Want to reveal anythi!a,g, not am I having a sour face. The scheme is working satisfactorily. The best guarantee for a reasonable success of the scheme is to ask ;fe?wr and fewer questions about it until

31 December; 1997... . *(Interruptions)..*

SHRI RAGHAVJI: It seems that the Minister has decided not to ...(Interrup- *tions) ..*

श्री एस.एस.अहलुवालिया: महोदया,मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि इसके पहले कितनी वोल्यूटरी डिस्क्लोजर स्कीम केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा लागू की गई और उसमें कितना-कितना रूपया निकला और इस बात इन्होंने कहा है कि यह स्कीम लगाई हैं ।

तो इस स्कीम को एनाउस करने से पहले क्या कोई समिति बनाई गई जिसने पूरी असेंसमेंट की कि हमारे देश में इतना ब्लैक मनी हैं ? अगर बनाई गई तो उसका क्या ब्यौरा है और कितना ब्लैक मनी कंट्री में है और क्या इसी तरह जिस तरह हमारी इंडियन करसी की मनी हिन्दुस्तान में ब्लैक मनी है उसी तरह फॉरेन करसी में भी हमारे नॉन रेजीडेंट इंडियस का या इंडियंस का पैसा जो विदेशों मे पड़ा हुआ हैं उसकी भी कोई वोल्यूटरी स्कीम आप लागू करने जा रहे हैं या उसकी कोई असेसमेंट कराई है,इस पर जरा कृपया बताने की कृपा करें ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, several schemes were launched in the past, but each one differs from the others in material respects... *(Interruptions)..*

SHRI S. S AHLUWALIA: I have isked specific number; not several. Six *or eight (Interruptions)...*

SHRI F. CHTOAMBARAM: X am

उपसभापति: बोल रहे हैं,पूरा तो बोलने दीजिए उनको

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, there was a VDI Scheme in 1951. Then, there was a modified scheme in 1965. There, was a Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Scheme under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Act, 1976. Therefore, there have been several schemes If you wish to compare the scheme that we have now, the closest comparison is the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Act, 1976. Besides, there have been other scheme which do not involve a tax element. There was a Special Beerer Bonds (Immunities and Exceptions) Act, 1981 There was the Remittances of Foreign, Exchange (Immunity) Scheme of 1991; there was the National Housing Bank (Voluntary Deposit) Scheme of 1991. There was no tax element there. Soms scheme had a tax element. Some .sche-, mes did not have a tax element.

On black money, Madam, the last as

sessment was naade by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84. They estimated that the black money was between Rs. 31,584; and Rs. 36,786 crores. It has always been a matter of surprise to me as to how they could have arrived at a figure up to. the last digit of the five-digit number. Iff fact. I asked Dr. Shankar Acharya as to how they could have arrived at, an estimate of, Rs 36,786 and not Rs. 36,787.

Madam, these are, always, simply estimates. To use another wordj it is only a guesstimate. I do not want to make any guesstimate. We all 'know the sources of black money. It is mainly through properly transactions, avoidance 'ofMax becaiise of the past high tax'fktes,"and because of a large number of illegitimata busineses in the country. Illegitimate businesses include smuggling, prostitution, gambling, illicit liquor, etc. They throw up a ..vast amount of. money. They remaio as black money.

Anyway, Madam, we have to deal with it. We cannot run away from the problem. I am not saying that I am ablei to deal with all aspects of black money. But one aspect Parliament has broadly approved, namely, that we have reasonable tax rates. Once we arrive at reasonable tax rates, we give a opportunity to those who were avoiding tax for one reason for the other to come clean;.

In fact, the scheme must be understood in the light of what Parliament has approved. If there were not reasonablei tax rates, I would not have ventured to suggest this scheme Now that we all agree we have reasonable tax rates, I believe, the scheme has to be given a chance of success.

As I said, have not taken credit for any resource mobilisation tlw-ough this scheme. As I said, the sky is the limjt. All those who can co-operate, or, ask their friends to cb-op«;ratc ore welcome to do so.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Would you get the support from your major-supporting party?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Agar-walji, support is from that sideas

SHRI S. S. AHLUWAUA: Madam, the Government is depending on the 19»3 report. You don't have any latest report. It is a fourteen-year-old report.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, by the end of the year, i.e. by 31st December, 1997, would the Parliament be entitled to know the names of,..

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No,

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Would we know the name of the person who had made *the* largest disclosure? Would the Parliament be entitled to know the information by the end of the year?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I have said. No names would be divulged ever. I am sorry. Let me makei it very clear. Parliament would not be told about the names. We would only report whit tax has been collected.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: उपसभापति महोदया,सन् 51 से हम ब्लैकमनी से जूझ रहे हैं और 40-45 साल हो गये इस बीच में हमने कई योजनांए प्रस्तुत की । लेकिन 51 में जितनी ब्लैकमनी थी उसके कम्पेरिजन में 97 में कितनी ब्लैकमनी जनरेट हो गयी इसका अगर हम अन्तर देखें तो उससे ऐसा लगता है कि हमने जैसे-जैसे इलाज किया,अर्ज बढ़ता चला गया । इसका अथ यह हुआ कि जब तक आप ब्लैकमनी को रोकने की व्यवस्था नहीं करेंगे तब तक ब्लैकमनी जनरेट करते रहेंगे,उनको डिसक्लोजर का अवसर देते रहेंगे । यह अवसर प्राप्त करने की गुजाइश 97 में आपने बनाई हैं,यह 99 में फिर हो सकती है,2001 में फिर हो सकती है । इसलिए में आपसे यह प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं मत्री महोदय,कि यह ब्लैकमनी जनरेट न हो उसके लिए आपने क्या गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करके निश्चय किया है कि इसको कैसे रोका जाये ? अगर आप इसको नहीं रोक पायगें तो आपने एक चैनल और खोल दिया हैं ।

मेरे प्रश्न का (ब) भाग यह हैं कि आपने 100 प्रतिशत एक्सपोट ऑरियेन्टेड लोगों को इनकम टैंक्स से फ्री किया हैं । यह एक चैनल पहले ही खुला हुआ हैं,आपने दूसरा चैनल और खाले दिया हैं । ये दो चैनल पैरेलल काम कर रहे हैं । क्या आपको लगात है कि जो दूसरा चैनल,डिसक्लोजर स्कीम शुरू की हैं इससे आपको सफलता मिल पायेगी ? क्या जो ब्लैकमनी जनरेट हो गयी है,इसकी रोकथाम करने के लिए भी कोई व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं या फिर हम हर मौके पर दो,पांच साल बाद फिर से ऐसा मौका,ऐसे लोगों को देते रहेंगे जो ब्लैकमनी के माध्यम से भारतवर्ष की आर्थिक नीतियों को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं ?

उपसभापति: आपने बड़ा लम्बा भाषण किया ।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I agree that we need to deal with the fundamental questions. Unless these fun-damental issues are dealt with, black money will continue to be generated. I have listed a few.

One is reasonable tax rates. I believe Parliament this year has agreed on reasonable tax rates. I am deeply grateful to all political parties for supporting the reasonable income-tax rates. So, we havo dealt with one issue.

There are some other issues which have to be dealt with. The second is about registration of properties. In a conference of the Finance Ministers, we proposed that the stamp duty charges shdtald be brought down and that they should be in the range of five to eight per cent_ If the stamp duty charges are brought down, I believe more and more people will disclose the true value of their property which is transferred and registered. If the stamp duty charges are 13 per cent or 14 per cent, people will avoid payment of the stamp duty because they think, for good or bad reasons, that the State is not entitled to collect 13 per cent or 14 per cent from one who wishes to transfer his property to another. So, the stamp duty charges must be reduced. I am working with the State Governments. I hope I will succeed shortly. But I would urge all of you, being representatives of the States to urge upon your State Governments to reduce the stamp duty charges because that is the biggest generator of black money. Every day and right now, while we are speakin,?, thousands of documents are being registered in India, and the bulk of them are being registered for a value much less than the true value. So, black money is generated.

The third is about the real estate. We have a sejious problem. The Urban, LariB Ceiling Act has not served the pur pose for which it was enacted. Every body has agreed that it must be reviewed, but we have not agreed on the direction the review should take. Builders, real estate agents aid other people who hold land are involved in this. There is gene ration of black money in all transactions involving real estate. So, we need to deal with that problem. Unless we deal with the fundamental issues, there is no way of stopping the generation of black money

Everything is not within my power. I am willing to do what is possible, within my power. I would urge all of you to reflect coolly and calmly on the sources of black money, to deal with the e sources which generate black money and to find answers to the problems therein.

Even after we do all these things, therr will be some amount of illegimate acti-vity, as I said, smuggling, gambling and prostitution which generate black money. -That kind of illegal activity is there in every country. Those are social issues which have to be addressed at the social level.

I do not have an easy answer to stop the generation of black money. We must have legislative and fiscal policies which will discourage people from generating black money. We must also take strong deterrent action againt those who evade taxes.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा है . ...(**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति: अभी दो क्वेश्चन पर ही बहुत टाईम लग गया हैं ।

त्रिपुरा में लोक अदालतें

287.**श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे**: क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षो के दौरान त्रिपुरा में अब तक आयोजित लोक अदालतों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इन अदालतों में कितने मामले निपटाए गए हैं और कितने मामलों को नहीं निपटाया गया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार त्रिपुरा में कुछ और अदालतें आयोजित करने का विचार रखती है;

(घ) क्या त्रिपुरा में गरीब और जनय जातीय लोगों को उचित और तत्काल न्याय मिलना कठिन है;और